



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services Welcomes Grant Funding for New Anti-Gang Program

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has been selected by the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance to receive \$1.65 million for the Anti-Gang Intelligence Led Policing (ILP) program. This program is a critical element of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) Initiative.

"I am pleased that OES has been selected to help further Governor Schwarzenegger's anti-gang initiative," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "This grant program will provide law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to help address the violent gangs that are plaguing our state and terrorizing our communities."

The Anti-Gang Intelligence Led Policing program will provide support to local law enforcement agencies in seven regional areas in California, allowing them to more efficiently gather and share information on gang-related activities in the state.

"This information-sharing will allow local law enforcement to more efficiently identify, arrest and convict gang members who commit violent crimes, which will increase public safety and return peace of mind to those neighborhoods that have suffered the most," said Paul Seave, director of Gang and Youth Violence Policy for the Office of the Governor.

The program establishes a statewide network for anti-gang coordination among law enforcement agencies. This program will do several things:

- 1) Provide planning and coordination among intelligence analysts using a regional approach that will allow information-sharing across jurisdictional boundaries;
- 2) Provide a streamlined intelligence-gathering system and a centralized location for information on gang-related activities for investigative purposes. The collection process will be further enhanced with the development of a statewide Web-based information system for local anti-gang coordination;
- 3) Provide a means to assess the needs of the regional anti-gang coordinators, in order to provide appropriate resources;
- 4) Provide training on intelligence analysis for the regional anti-gang coordinators;
- 5) Provide comprehensive assessment of the impact of gang activity on local communities.

Representatives of the OES Gangs and Crime Suppression Branch and the Law Enforcement Branch will be working collaboratively with the seven OES Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Regions to begin coordinating the implementation of this new program.

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Background:

Gang violence is a major problem throughout California and continues to escalate at an alarming rate. Gangs have existed in California for decades, but their number and size have increased dramatically in recent years despite heavy eradication efforts by law enforcement. They incorporate nearly every region of the state and have expanded from cities into suburban and rural areas.

Many prison and street gangs are highly sophisticated, resembling organized crime syndicates with established hierarchy, hi-tech communications, and an influence that crosses local jurisdictions, state lines and international borders. According to the California Department of Justice, there are more than 420,000 gang members statewide.

Criminal street gangs in California are responsible for crimes such as: narcotic production, drug trafficking, prostitution, human trafficking, identity theft, money laundering, counterfeiting, rape, robbery, car-jacking, assaults, arson, kidnapping, extortion, murder and assassinations for hire.

In spite of an overall decrease in crime in most California cities since the 1990s, the activities of criminal street gangs are increasing.

An indicator of the gang problem in California is a collection of isolated facts from a random sampling of cities:

- In 2006, gang-related crimes in Los Angeles rose 14% while overall crime went down 7%.
- Santa Ana has 90 active street gangs with approximately 4,000 members.
- There are more than 41 different known gangs in the City of San Francisco.
- Since November 2006, Fresno's Police Department's Operation Bulldog has led to 2,096 felony arrests of Bulldog gang members and associates, according to Police Chief Jerry Dyer. Of these, 42.6% of the arrestees were on parole, and 19.7% were on probation.

For more information, call the OES Public Information Office at 916-845-8400 or visit www.oes.ca.gov.